



POLICE COMMISSION

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MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
BETHEL POLICE COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, MAR 16, 2016
MUNICIPAL CENTER, 1 SCHOOL ST MEETING ROOM "B"

ATTENDING: CHAIRMAN MIKE DUFF
COMMISSIONER ANTHONY RUBINO
COMMISSIONER RICHARD KOLWICZ
COMMISSIONER AMY MANNION
CHIEF JEFFREY FINCH

ABSENT: COMMISSIONER RICHARD BARTON

ATTENDANCE: Police Officers 1
Citizens 1

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Chairman Duff opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.
The Commission pledged allegiance to the flag.

1. Public Input
None
2. Review of Past Minutes
Motion by Comm Kolwicz to accept the minutes of 2/17/16; seconded by Comm Mannion – unanimous.
3. Budget Report
 - a) Comptroller's Reports
In hands of Commissioners. Chief Finch noted that well into the current fiscal year, a number of accounts still have money in them ie the vehicle account.
 - b) Overtime Reports
Overtime expenditure continues to grow (\$22K more than last year-to-date) largely due to being seven people short. This will continue to escalate over the summer where traditionally with vacations it is difficult maintain a balance anyway.
4. Old Business
 - a) Monthly Reports
Chief Finch reported February crime and arrests as both being down from previous years.
 - b) Budget – *after the Finance Board*
The original cut of 1 car was restored. \$40K was cut from the overtime request.

5. New Business

• Danbury Half Marathon – April 3, 2016, Sunday

This event was reported as having been well handled in the past.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to approve the Danbury Half Marathon for 10:00 AM on April 3rd, 2016; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous

• MS Society Bike Ride – June 12, 2016

This event has not produced any issues over the years in which it has been run. The event starts in Norwalk and comes through Bethel. The organizers provide their own control personnel.

Motion by Comm Mannion to authorize the pass-through of bikes for the MS Society Bike Ride for June 12th, 2016; seconded by Comm Kolwicz – unanimous.

• Safety Training

Chairman Duff recommended civilian firearm safety training for Commission members so as to be better informed about firearm issues should they arise.

Motion by Comm Kolwicz to inquire with the proper Town officials to obtain funding for civilian firearm safety training; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

• Traffic Signs

Chairman Duff asked the Commission to begin thinking about the 2 hour limit parking signs on Durant Ave from CVS to the train station. Parking is abused here with some cars parking all day especially in front of Eaton Corp. The signs should be removed or overtime parking enforced. Per Lt Dickinson the signs were originally installed as 2 hour or permit parking for railroad station overflow. Railroad station expansion should increase overall parking.

Chairman Duff also asked about the poor lighting on Durant Ave. Lt Dickinson has officer Holland looking into this as well as railroad station lighting. Public works has been notified about this entire area.

As #6 was a scheduled item, the Commission continued onto #7

6. Sergeants Promotion – *scheduled for 7pm*

• The meeting was called back into session at 6:43

Motion by Chairman Duff to proceed with the promotion of Matt Zavatsky to the position of Sergeant in the Bethel Police Department; seconded by Comm Kolwicz; unanimous. Town Clerk Lisa Bergh performed the swearing in procedure

The meeting recessed at 6:47

The meeting was called back to order at 6:57

7. Correspondence

Several letters were mentioned including a request letter from Civil Liberties; a dog bite complaint; a response from STC concerning a Lt Dickinson letter. Comm Mannion complimented officer Whaley as doing a “terrific” SRO job.

8. Police Building

The Commission discussed several aspects of the new police building

9. Chief's Report

Chief Finch reported the Department is looking into various body cameras. The big issue is not the cameras themselves but rather the computers, software and data storage.

New ID's were discussed for Commission members.

The awards ceremony will be held at the end of April, date to be announced.

The officer of the year event will be held at the Exchange Club, date to be announced.

The meeting recessed at 6:38 until the Sergeant swearing in see #6

10. Commissioner Comments

None

11. Executive Session

At 7:13 motion by Comm Kolwicz to go into executive session to discuss security issues and invite Chief Finch and Captain Pugner to attend; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous

At 7:40 the Commission came out of executive session

At 7:41 motion by Comm Kolwicz to adjourn; seconded by Comm Rubino – unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ferdinand Miller Jr
Secretary